

NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL)

Proposed Site

September 2008

BORIT ASBESTOS TAILINGS PILE | Ambler, Pennsylvania

Montgomery County

(\$) Site Location:

The Borit Asbestos Tailings Pile is located in Ambler, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

△ Site History:

The Borit Asbestos Tailings Pile was used to dispose of asbestos containing material (ACM) from Keasby & Mattison Company, a nearby asbestos products manufacturing plant. Nicolet Industries purchased the plant in 1962. Disposal at this site began in the 1930s and continued until the 1970s when Nicolet ceased operations. The site is divided into three contiguous parcels: an asbestos waste pile owned by Kane-Core, Inc., a reservoir owned by the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, and a former park/playground owned by Whitpain Township. The waste pile began as a former reservoir that was filled to 20 to 30 feet above the ground surface. This pile is estimated to be 149,500 cubic yards and comprises 6 acres. The second disposal area is a reservoir. The berm of the 15-acre reservoir was constructed of asbestos shingles, millboard, and soil. Asbestos product waste, such as piping and tiles, is visible surrounding the reservoir and the nearby stream banks. The third disposal area was a depression that was filled and leveled to the ground surface. This disposal area is approximately 11 acres and was used as a park/playground for a number of years. In the mid-1980s, the area was fenced due to asbestos contamination.

■ Site Contamination/Contaminants:

Asbestos is the contaminant of concern.

Potential Impacts on Surrounding Community/Environment:

Asbestos was detected in air samples collected in the vicinity of the asbestos disposal areas. The area surrounding the site is a densely populated residential and commercial area. Although the waste pile and playground area were covered with soil at the time of closure, asbestos is present at the surface throughout the site. The site is not completely fenced, and there is evidence of trespassers using the property. ACM has also been observed along the banks of the Wissahickon Creek which is also accessible.

Response Activities (to date):

Warning signs have been posted, and a fence has been constructed around portions of the site. The boundary of the site along Wissahickon Creek is not completely fenced.

Need for NPL Listing:

The site is being considered for the NPL because of the potential exposure of the nearby residential population to airborne asbestos and ACM along Wissahickon Creek. Applicable federal and commonwealth cleanup programs were evaluated. It was determined that NPL listing provides the best approach to address all of the sources of contamination to protect human health and the environment at the site. EPA received a letter of support for placing this site on the NPL from the state.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination.]

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html or by telephone at 1-888-422-8737.